Appendix C

Sample Reconnaissance OPORD

A sample reconnaissance OPORD is shown in Figure C-1.

Classification

Copy 1 of 10 copies
HQ, 99th Engineer Battalion
NK111111
080500 JAN 97

OPERATION ORDER 97-11

References: 1st Bde OPORD 97-23

Map sheet V107

Time Zone Used Throughout The Order: Local

Task Organization:

A/99 En Bn	B/99 En Bn	Bn control
	1/C/99 En Bn	C/99 En Bn (-)
		Recon Team 1

1. SITUATION.

a. Enemy Forces.

(1) Terrain and Weather.

(a) Observation is generally limited along the valley floor due to the terrain's undulating nature. Multiple intervisibility lines, generally running north to south and spaced between 500 to 1,000 meters, will hamper observation. Movement to the higher elevations along either the north or south wall will obviously improve observation. Winds (expected to exceed 20 knots until at least 111200 JAN 97) will lift sand from the desert floor and hamper observation. Observation at night will be extremely limited due to the light data for the next 72 hours. Note that on 8 JAN 97 the moon sets before the sun and on 9 through 11 JAN, the moon sets soon after the sun; therefore, night-vision goggles (NVGs) will provide limited capabilities for the next 72 hours and make observation, movement, and the acquisition of OBSTINTEL more difficult.

Classification

Figure C-1. Sample reconnaissance OPORD

Classification

Date	BMNT	SR	SS	EENT	MR	MS	Start NVG	Stop NVG	% Illum
8 JAN	0555	0654	1701	1800	0550	1633	*****	*****	0%
9 JAN	0555	0653	1702	1801	0643	1743	*****	*****	0%
10 JAN	0555	0653	1703	1802	0731	1853	*****	*****	4%
11 JAN	0554	0653	1704	1803	0813	2002	*****	*****	9%

(b) The only cover from both direct and indirect fires is provided by the undulating terrain previously mentioned. Concealment during movement can be enhanced by traveling parallel to the intervisibility lines when available. The dusty and windy conditions may make mounted movement less detectable by the enemy.

(c) The pipeline running parallel to the LD along the 30 easting is the only existing obstacle in the AO. Crossing points for this pipeline have been identified at NK 302215 and NK 295090.

(d) The terrain in the vicinity of the templated obstacle system is believed to be unsuitable for minefield reduction by MCBs because of the undulating terrain and the soil composition.

(2) Enemy Situation.

(a) The 133d motorized rifle battalion (MRB) is currently preparing defenses along the 47 easting. This unit's expected strength is estimated to be 12 T-80s, 32 BMP-1s, 3 AT-5s, and 1 dismounted infantry company. The 133d MRB began preparing its defenses 071500 JAN 97 and are not expected to complete its countermobility and survivability effort before 091600 JAN 97. The 133d MRB is expected to have a company-size combined-arms reserve at a strength of three T-80s and eight BMP-1s.

(b) As of 080100 JAN, three enemy MRCs have been located and are depicted on the SITEMP. The expected positioning of the subordinate MRPs is also templated as well as the anticipated combat security observation post (CSOP) and artillery positions. Expect to come within direct-fire range of the CSOPs when crossing the 42 easting and the main defenses when crossing the 44 easting. Enemy artillery is expected to be in position not later than (NLT) 081600 JAN; expect to come within indirect-fire range when crossing the 25 easting. However, the enemy will rarely use indirect fires against recon forces. Expect the enemy to use its rotary-wing assets in its attempt to try to locate and destroy recon forces. The enemy is not expected to be supported by fixed-wing aircraft. Although the enemy has the capability to employ chemical weapons, it has chosen not to due so thus far in the campaign. However, if the enemy does employ chemicals, we expect them to emplace a persistent chemical agent at center of mass NK 410280.

Classification

Figure C-2. Sample reconnaissance OPORD (continued)

Classification

The enemy is not nuclear capable. Expect the enemy to use dismounted strong points to tie its obstacles into the restricted terrain at vicinities NK 450210 and NK 440100. These dismounted forces will be supplied with AT-5s to assist in their mission of preventing the obstacle system from being reduced along the walls of the valley. Additionally, the enemy will use dismounted patrols to protect all minefields.

(c) The templated obstacle system is included on the SITEMP. No confirmed obstacle locations have been obtained as of 080100 JAN. We expect the enemy to continue to lay its minefields similar to the method used throughout the campaign. We expect the enemy to mechanically lay its minefields and expect each minefield to be comprised of SB-MV mines and be 200 to 300 meters long and 60 to 120 meters deep. The mine spacing has consistently been 4.5 meters and the depth of the mines have been up to 9 inches. **NOTE: The SB-MV is magnetic-influence initiated and must be detected by probing. Operating hand-held mine detectors may detonate the mine.** If mines are surface laid, it is probably due to the soil conditions and indicates the probable success of using MCBs. The enemy has routinely used a single-strand of concertina fence on the enemy side of the minefield as a frat fence. The enemy is expected to emplace a total of 15 minefields in its defense.

b. Friendly Forces.

(1) Higher.

(a) 1st Brigade plans to conduct a brigade breaching operation and penetrate the northern MRP of the northern MRC as shown on the SITEMP. Other brigade recon assets include two COLTs and one chemical recon vehicle. The planned locations for each of these assets are shown on the maneuver graphics.

(b) Engineer recon team 1 is attempting to answer the brigade commander's PIR for location, composition, and orientation of the enemy's obstacles.

(c) If bypasses of the enemy obstacles can be located, the brigade commander would prefer to bypass the obstacles as close to the north wall as possible.

(2) Lower. Do not expect TF recon assets to cross the LD before EENT on 9 JAN 97.

2. MISSION. The 99th Engineer Battalion conducts an area recon of NAI 301 NLT 082000 JAN 97 to facilitate the brigade's attack at 110500 JAN 97.

3. EXECUTION.

Intent. The purpose of this mission is to identify enemy obstacles within NAI 301 to confirm or deny the enemy's COA and facilitate breaching operations. The end state is the identification of enemy obstacles in NAI 301 NLT 100500 JAN 97 and recon team 1 in position at checkpoint (CP) 15 ready to link up and guide the breach force to the obstacle location NLT 110001 JAN 97.

Classification

Figure C-3. Sample reconnaissance OPORD (continued)

Classification

a. Concept of Operation. The battalion conducts an obstacle-oriented area recon. Recon team 1 will cross the LD NLT 082000 JAN. The brigade will have at least two batteries ready to provide indirect fires out to PL Celtics throughout the recon effort, and the attack helicopter battalion (AHB) will support casualty evacuation. Team 1 will cross the LD about 24 hours before the TF scouts in an attempt to observe the enemy emplacing obstacles while the TF is still planning its R&S effort. The recon team will link up with TF 1-23 scouts (who will provide security) before conducting obstacle recon. Recon team 1 will complete its area recon of NAI 301 NLT 100500 JAN to facilitate mounted rehearsals by the brigade during daylight hours on 11 JAN 97. Recon team 1 will continue to observe NAI 301 until 101700 JAN and report any further engineer activity. At 101800 JAN 97, recon team 1 will move to CP 15 and be in position NLT 110001 JAN 97, prepared to link up and guide the breach force to the obstacle location.

b. Tasks to Subordinate Units.

(1) Battalion's TOC. The battalion's TOC will—

(a) Provide liaison personnel to colocate with the recon team until they cross the LD and ensure that liaison personnel obtain a copy of the recon team's maneuver graphics.

(b) Coordinate the recon team's indirect fire plan with the FSO and confirm targets with the team leader once they are coordinated.

(2) Battalion S4. The battalion S4 will obtain the current logistical status of recon team 1. He will ensure that unit basic load (UBL) levels are reestablished NLT 081200 JAN 97 and report to the TOC upon completion.

(3) A/99 En Bn. A/99 En Bn will conduct liaison activities between recon team 1 and TF 1-23 according to the battalion's TACSOP.

(4) Recon team 1. Recon team 1 will—

(a) Report the current logistical status to the S4 NLT 080800 JAN 97.

(b) Backbrief the plan to the battalion commander via FM radio at 081300 JAN 97.

(c) Provide TF 1-23 the team's graphics, via the A/99 En Bn's TOC before crossing the LD.

(d) Forward requested indirect-fire targets to the battalion's TOC NLT 081600 JAN 97.

(e) Coordinate link up with the TF 1-23 scouts for security during obstacle recon.

(f) Conduct an area recon of NAI 301 NLT 082000 JAN 97 to verify the composition of obstacles within the NAI.

Classification

Figure C-4. Sample reconnaissance OPORD (continued)

Classification

c. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Task organization is effective upon receipt of this order.

(2) All units will participate in the intelligence updates to occur at 0800 and 2000 each day.

(3) The LOA for recon assets is PL Celtics.

4. SERVICE SUPPORT.

a. Support Concept.

(1) The recon team will cross the LD fully uploaded according to the battalion's TACSOP. These supplies will come from the engineer battalion. This basic load is expected to sustain the team throughout the mission.

(2) Emergency resupply will be coordinated through the engineer battalion's TOC and delivered by aviation assets. Backup resupply will be through TF 1-23.

b. Medical Evacuation and Hospitalization. The primary means of MEDEVAC is by air (requested through the battalion's TOC); backup is by ground evacuation (performed by TF 1-23).

c. Personnel Support. EPWs will be turned over to TF 1-23 for evacuation to the rear.

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL.

a. Command. The chain of command is the commander, the XO, the S3, and the commander of C Company.

b. Signal.

(1) All traffic from recon team 1 to the battalion's TOC will be over MSRT (primary) or the battalion's command net (alternate).

(2) The recon team's current location will be sent by the battalion's TOC to TF 1-23.

(3) OBSTINTEL will be reported according to the TACSOP.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

PATTON
LTC

OFFICIAL:

(Authentication)
Overlays:
SITEMP
Maneuver graphics with artillery targets
CSS graphics

Classification

Figure C-5. Sample reconnaissance OPORD (continued)